



JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

LEGISLATIVE OBJECTIVES 2006-2007

The following legislative objectives for 2006-2007 were approved by the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations on 9 August 2006. These are the top objectives of the JLC and are listed in priority order.

1. **Support for the Virginia National Guard and Reserves:**
 - **Preparedness:** Provide funds for communications equipment for the NG to ensure interoperability with other EMS agencies (amount needed unknown at this time.). The Adjutant General (TAG) needs authority to call up 40 admin/log and command & control personnel for better responsiveness in advance of a pending emergency. Continue the \$2,000 bonus for retention and fully fund tuition assistance. Some clarification in the law is needed regarding ability to bring soldiers on active duty for training.
 - **Family Support Programs:** Provide \$1.2 million to the Citizen Soldier Support Council to fund and oversee a combined approach to support families of the Guard and Reserve.
2. **Fully fund the Department of Veterans Services Budget and Strategic Plan:** DVS must continue to be funded to ensure continued/ improved awareness and access to veterans services. Continued funding, as necessary, must ensure that ongoing projects are in fact completed in a timely manner (e.g. the 3rd Veterans Care Center, the 3rd Veterans Cemetery, etc.). Also, funding for studying the feasibility of a veterans care center in Northern Virginia should be provided.
3. **In-State Tuition for Active and Reserve Service Members Stationed in Virginia:** Service members should be granted in-state residency while stationed in Virginia for the purpose of college tuition similar to the status of military dependents. No state funding is required.
4. **Funding for the Virginia War Memorial Education Wing:** \$3.5 million is requested. The War Memorial Foundation will raise the remainder from private sources.
5. **Clarify Veterans "Preference" in Hiring Practices:** The precise definition for "preference" in veterans hiring needs to be clarified. The vague meaning of the term as used currently results in veterans having little or no actual "preference" in hiring. No state funding required.
6. **Pay Day Lending:** Legislation is needed to curb the predatory, deceptive, and fraudulent practices of certain business outside the gates of military installations that prey on service members and other unsuspecting citizens of the Commonwealth. Virginia should follow federal guidelines and impose a 36% APR cap. No state funding needed.
7. **State Tax Exemption for Virginia Residents of the Armed Forces while Deployed Overseas:** Members of the armed forces while deployed outside the continental United States should be exempt from paying state income tax.